

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

June 2012 – Week 5

Air Date: June 24 – June 30 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: BATTLE REDUX

JUNE 1864 SAME BATTLEFIELD, DIFFERENT WAR.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

JUNE 25, 1864. BROWNSVILLE. UNION FORCES OCCUPY THE TOWN. READY TO TAKE IT BACK, CONFEDERATE COLONEL “RIP” FORD GETS WORD THAT THE FEDERALS ARE HEADING OUT.

FINDING UNION TROOPS IN LAS RUSIAS, NEAR THE RIO GRANDE, FORD ATTACKS. MEXICAN-BORN CAPTAIN REFUGIO BENAVIDES AND HIS CAVALRY HIT THE UNION FLANK HARD. OUTNUMBERED, THE FEDERALS FLEE – SOME ACROSS THE RIVER TO MEXICO.

IRONICALLY, U.S. TROOPS WERE ATTACKED HERE BEFORE – EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO, THIS TIME BY MEXICAN TROOPS UNDER SANTA ANNA. THE BATTLE LED TO THE MEXICAN WAR.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF LAS RUSIAS HAPPENED 148 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

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Alicia A. Garza, "LAS RUSIAS, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hrlcs>), accessed June 14, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Jerry Thompson and Lawrence T. Jones, “Civil War and Revolution on the Rio Grande Frontier,” (<http://www.tshaonline.org/publications/books/465>), Texas State Historical Association, 2004

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